

Bloomington Arts Commission

Wednesday, July 13th, 2016

5 to 6:30 pm

McCloskey Conference Room, City Hall

A G E N D A

1. Call to Order/Welcoming - Sally Gaskill, Chair
2. Public Comment
3. June Minutes
4. Finance Report - Martina Celerin, Treasurer
5. Staff Report - Sean Starowitz
6. Grant Reports - Abby Perfetti, Lynn Schwartzberg
7. Commissioner Announcements
8. Good of the order/Adjournment

2016 Meetings - 5pm McCloskey

August 10

September 14

October 12

November 9

December 14

Bloomington Arts Commission

Hooker Room

June 22, 2016

Attending: Sally Gaskill, Abby Perfetti, Jan Grant, Alain Barker, Lynn Schwartzberg, Gabe Colman, Peter Jacobi, Michael Wilkerson. Ex Officio: Sean Starowitz. Observing Duane Busick, Michael Ann Carley (Liaisons with Bloomington Arts Alliance),

Sally Gaskill opened the meeting at 5:02pm. Meeting began with Commissioners introducing themselves individually to Sean Starowitz. Michael Wilkerson (new Commissioner, director of arts administration at SPEA) was introduced and handed a 1928 Underwood manual typewriter on which to take the minutes as the new Secretary. Wilkerson confessed that his two degrees in creative writing made him sometimes susceptible to embellishment.

The May minutes were approved as written.

Finance report was deferred due to Treasurer Martina Celerin's absence.

The dedication of the new public art piece will be held 11:30 a.m. at the site on the Clear Creek Trail on Church Lane near That Road. There was discussion (unresolved) of the proper pronunciation of That Road.

There was discussion as to whether SPEA would reinstate the second graduate assistantship that was canceled in January. Michael Wilkerson was somewhat indefinite on this point but promised to check to see if both the fall graduate enrollment and the graduate work-study funding allocation would be sufficient to support all the positions in the community. Wilkerson did indicate that urgent needs by BEAD and BCAC could be met on a project basis by the use of one-credit "practicums" which consume about 50 hours of a student's time.

Staff report, by Sean Starowitz, described his first two weeks of "attempting to meet with everyone" in the arts and in the city government and to understand the politics of the city as well as its finances. He hopes to meet most of the major figures in the arts and representatives of all of the arts organizations in the city in his first days in the position as the city's assistant director for economic development and sustainability. He has been added (already!) to the boards of Visit Bloomington and Downtown Bloomington Incorporated.

He is changing the times of the BEAD advisory committee and is adding representatives from the for-profit entertainment industry (he gave The Bishop as an example). He will also revise the BEAD newsletter due to low readership and has already seen a 10% increase in clickthrough just by moving the day of publication earlier in the week. Going forward, the newsletter will focus more on key events and arts opportunities and less on purely being a calendar, but it will have a robust connection to the more comprehensive Visit Bloomington calendar listing.

The annual BAC grants have already been direct-deposited to the recipients' accounts, though an envelope with a letter will be ceremonially distributed at the first grant ceremony later in the evening. Sean Starowitz described his office's overriding goal for 2017, which is to ascertain, "What does a great arts program look like?" He discussed implementation of the new city sign ordinance, mandated by a recent Supreme Court ruling. The city has essentially banned all banners and signs in public spaces, including the right of way, with few exceptions. Sean is seeking a legal interpretation from the City to determine the possibility of using banners to some degree in public spaces.

Sally discussed the format of the first-ever grant distribution ceremony, describing an ambitious timetable designed to end the ceremony precisely at 6:40. (In real life, the ceremony ended at 6:30 - crisp!).

General announcements included noting the retirement of the energetic and dedicated Jane Gouker as strings director for the MCCSC. A replacement is being sought. Alain Barker noted that the Bloomington Early Music Festival has been revitalized and was a big success this May. Abby Perfetti has found and is filling a gap in the arts in Bloomington - for female queer classical choral performance. Dates and times of these performances to be announced.

Sally has been working with MAYO, the youth orchestra and after-school program seldom confused for a condiment, has entered into a stronger partnership with the Boys and Girls Club and thanks to a funder will double its activity with the kids served by the club.

The meeting was adjourned about 5:40 p.m. to transition downstairs to the ceremony for grant recipients. Though outside the scope of these minutes (technically), the ceremony went off flawlessly, with gracious comments from Mayor Hamilton and Councilwoman Sandberg, as well as generous emceeing and commenting by Sally Gaskill. All 17 grantees sent representatives, and the room was full. Alain Barker capped it off with a massive group photo that, as a great administrator once said, included the deserving and the undeserving alike.

The next meeting of the Commissioners will be July 13.

Submitted with modest embellishment,

Michael Wilkerson

Secretary